

Kidnapped

By Emily Peters



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Chapter 1: Winter

"Meow!"

"Huh?"

"Meow!"

Winter looks at the clock and it reads 12:47 PM.

"Meow!"

It was a cat. But what was it doing here, in her room, at 12:47?

The black cat jumps up onto her bed and brushes itself against me.

What's that around his neck?

Winter pulls out a small bottle. 'Drink me' it says.

Heck no, Winter throws it across the room.

Clink, crack, shatter.

Oops it broke, maybe she shouldn't have done that.

Winter is starting to feel sleepy so she lies back down.

Winter starts rocking and moves around and falls out of bed. Winter doesn't mind much so Winter just goes back to bed still rocking.

When Winter wakes. It is pitch black, and she's still rocking. She goes back to bed.

Winter stops rocking.

Someone, possibly a man, says from a corner of the room "Time to wake up, sleepyhead."

He carries her out of a plane and places her in a car, then drives her away.

"Ugh," Winter cringes.

He grins.

Winter feels miserable. She then realizes that she was drugged.

"How was your ten-hour nap?" he asks, still smiling.

"Ugh," that is all Winter can say.

About an hour later they pulled up to a tiny house.

He carries her inside and leaves Winter in a bedroom on the bed, and then he leaves.

Winter is now in a small room with one window 2 stories up. She starts to be worried that they are going to leave her there. So she gets up and starts looking around.

Soon a distressed-looking woman comes in.

"Hello there Winter," the woman says. "My name is Jennifer. You can call me mom."

Now you're probably wondering what just happened. My name is Winter Knight, or was until I got kidnapped. I am 18 and three-fourths. I was an ordinary girl with a five-person family. I lived in a small neighborhood in Rockford, Illinois. Then this happened. I have no idea where I am or if these people are nice or mean. But back to the book.

Chapter 2: Mom

"Where am I?" Winter requests.

"Well, you're in Hawaii," she declares.

"Are there any more of you?" quizzes Winter.

"Yes," Mom replies.

"How many?"

"There are five more," Mom continued.

"Will you ever let me go back to my family?" Winter questions.

"Probably not," Mom answers.

"Why not?" whines Winter.

"Because you're our family now."

"What if I don't want to be in your family?"

"Well, you are, so get over it." Mom puffs.

"What are you going to do with me?" Winter utters.

"Regular family stuff. To the rest of the world, we adopted you. Also, your new name is Summer," Mom commands.

"But why? Why couldn't you just leave me alone?" Winter still annoyed says.

"Well, I, I wanted a new kid. There's only five of them, you know. And you know as well as I know that you weren't happy," Mom proclaims.

"How would you know that?"

"Because I watched you."

"You watched me?" exclaims Summer.

"Yes," confirms Mom.

"But, Why?" buts Summer.

"Because you're special."

"And how exactly am I special?" Summer quizzes.

"You just are." Mom sighs.

"When am I gonna be able to see the rest of the family?"

"Once you tell me you're not going to run away," Mom argues.

"I can't promise I won't."

"Then you will stay here."

"Can I at least go meet them and then come back to this room? I mean, if I'm going to be your family, I need to know who my family is."

"Fair. But you still have to promise you won't run away."

"No. I will meet them then promise."

"Fine. But it will be tomorrow."

"That's... fine," Summer sighs.

"By the way, this room is freezing."

"I will have some blankets tossed in tonight. In the meantime, your door will be locked."

Chapter 3: Escape and Meeting Family

No, Summer was going to escape tonight. But how? The window! Yes, Summer would use the window and blankets.

NIGHTFALL

It's action time, food and blankets arrive. Summer eats the food and starts tying the blankets in knots.

Summer ties it to the bed and tosses it out the window. She climbs down, Summer starts to feel woozy.

"Oh no, drugs," Summer whispers.

'Don't matter, I am getting out of here' Summer thought to herself.

Summer let the guard pass her before struggling to run out to the driveway.

Summer lets the next guard pass before running out of the driveway and down the long winding road, Summer passes out.

Alarms wake her up, uh oh.

Summer has to keep moving.

She looks around.

Woods to the side of the road, not going in there.

Summer starts running alongside the road.

She passed out again.

"Found her," a boy gives a sigh of relief.

Summer woke up in the small room again.

A boy her age is sitting in a chair next to Summer. It is still dark out.

"MOM!" he yells.

"Ugh," Summer says.

He helps her sit up. He's kinda cute. Okay, he's really cute. He is of medium height, with blonde short-cut hair, and blue/ green eyes, and one of his teeth on the right side is pointed. He wears a tee shirt and jeans with cowboy boots.

"Hi, Summer, my name is James," says the boy.

"I'm here," says an older boy walking into the room.

He's around eighteen, has short brown cut hair, and blue eyes, wears a hoodie and jeans, and has great posture.

"Mom said to leave her alone when I told her you called," He says, then noticing me.

"Hello Summer, I see you've met my brother James."

"Yes," Summer says questioningly.

"Oh, my name is Alexander," he says, taking the hint.

"And my name is 'not' Winter," Summer says with James butting in.

"Mother wants you always to be called Summer," Is all the explanation Summer gets.

"OK James what is it," Mom says coming into the room she looks at me "Oh,"

"Oh?" James says

"Summer is awake, well then you've met the family, now promise," Mom tells me.

"Not so fast, I haven't met the whole family," Summer answers.

"Fine, Mary, Adam, Alice come!" Mom yells.

A little girl walks in along with another older girl and a young boy.

“That is Mary, Alice, and Adam,” Mom says pointing to each other in turn. Mary the youngest has blonde hair like her brother James, bright blue eyes, and is wearing a pink sundress. Alice the oldest girl also has blonde hair but the same eyes as James and is wearing a crop top and bootcut jeans with cowboy boots. Adam has on a similar outfit to James but instead of cowboy boots, he wears tennis shoes. “Hello” “Hi” “Howdy,” say the kids.

Chapter 4: Wish

"Okay, you have now met the entire family besides my husband who will not return till tomorrow. Do you promise?" Mom counters

"Yes I promise,"

"Promise what?"

"No running away for me I promise,"

"OK good now every school day you will get a wish, anything you want, starting today but since today is Sunday you will not get a wish today," Mom concludes.

"Any rules I should know,"

"No running inside, no shouting inside, no vegetables and be nice," Everyone says.

"Oh and not related to wishes one more thing you will get a new room in the morning, you get to pick one," Mom adds.

"Fine with me,"

They leave and Summer goes to ask a guard if Summer can have some paper and a pencil.

"In the desk." he replies.

Summer goes and finds a desk and some paper and pencils. Summer explores the house further and finds a small bathroom with a shower and a bedroom without a bed. She goes back to the desk and starts planning her wishes. Summer finishes her list, and she starts daydreaming that Summer finds a cute guy on an abandoned island... She gets in the bed and falls asleep. Summer proceeds to dream that on the island the cute guy is James.

"Ma'am your limo is here," one guard says waking me up

"Limo?" Summer say getting up

"Yes, the one that will take you to the mansion,"

"Umm... Ok...Thanks...Bye,"

"Have a good trip,"

"Thanks. I will,"

Chapter 5: Stonebrook Manor

The limo driver gives me a tour of the island. "Let's see there's the beach and the town and here we are your new home,"

"Thanks for the tour, I loved it," Summer says.

As Summer got out Summer looked at the house we had pulled up to. It's big like a mansion. The Limo pulls away.

"Welcome Summer" a loudspeaker blares.

"Um hello," Summer says.

Mom, smiling, comes out of the mansion. "Hello Honey welcome to Stonebrook Manor"

"Thanks, glad to be here" Summer replies sarcastically, Mom's smile diminishes.

"Now you get to choose your room," she says.

"Yes," Summer says, kind of excited.

"James will show you through our home, I have to go and get your father,"

"Okay," she's kinda nervous when James shows up out of nowhere. "You ready," he says questioningly.

"Definitely," Summer says while thinking 'no way'

As we walk the halls James starts talking to Summer

"So, um, how are you liking the island?"

"I like it," Summer says

"Look I know what you going through I was also adopted," he says finger quoting the adopted part, but hey it ain't that bad, you get to do whatever you want to"

"Yeah but you can't run away"

"Well no but at least you don't have to eat vegetables"

"I like vegetables"

"No, you don't. And here we are your first room"

"Yay"

The room is a Suite, it has pink walls, a pink canopy bed, a pink dresser and bookshelf, and so on, and then you walk into a walk-in wardrobe.

The other rooms are similar, all have matching color sets. One of the very last rooms has an open view of the town and sea. The walls are blue with a white canopy bed to the side, a full-length mirror, a huge walk-in wardrobe, and a chandelier. The room also has a blue bathroom, the bathroom has a sunken bathtub with steps and a marble sink and toilet.

"I like this one," Summer says.

"Okay" James answers.

Summer sits on the bed

"May I?" James asks referring to the bed

"Sure, nothing to stop you" Summer replies

He sits next to me with a sigh "You just need to get used to the whole situation"

"How long did it take you?" Summer asks.

"A few months"

"That's it?"

"Well, it's a very nice environment,"

He leaves then and Summer is left alone.

Chapter 6: James

As James walks to his room he remembers when he got kidnapped...

"Woof!"

"Ranger?"

"Woof, Woof!"

James gets out of bed.

"Um Ranger boy?" he calls to his dog.

"Woof Yelp Whine!"

"Ranger!" he shouts running downstairs "Where are you? Oh, I wish my parents were home!"

The house starts filling with smoke.

"Ran- cough, cough -ger cough!" James breaks down coughing.

A man's black silhouette can be seen.

"Good dog, luring him!"

"Woof"

He blacks out "Ugh"

"Heh" the man's silhouette laughed

"Who?" asks James

"Who am I?" the man repeats.

"Yeah," James replies.

"You don't need to worry about that," the man remarked.

James blacks out again.

"Wake up" the man demands.

"Ugh," James says woozily.

"I know, time to go."

"Were we going?"

"You will find out, now git"

James walks out of a plane and walks into the bright sunlight. He gets into a car under the instruction of the man.

When he tries to escape he fails miserably. Too bad to talk about, But we are going anyway.

They pull up to a small cottage and James makes a run for it.

"Ugh," the man says and runs after James but James, being a football player, runs faster and looks behind him, turns around, and runs into a palm tree. The man catches up

"You done yet,"

"Yeah," James mumbled sheepishly

"Good,"

Back in the present day James turns around and goes to tell Summer the story.

"See," James concurs "I do know what you are going through,"

"Thank you for that intel" Summer quietly murmurs, leaning on James.

They stay that way for a while.

Chapter 7: The Search

2 Days Earlier

At Winter's residence, Winter's parents are just waking up.

"Linda, get up. We need to wake the kids," says a man.

"Okay, Bill, I'm up. I'll get Winter," Linda says groggily.

Linda walks into Winter's room.

"Morning sweetie, sweetie?" she says worriedly. "Bill!"

"What?!?" demands Bill.

"Winter is gone," stammers Linda.

"Quick, call 911," Bill says, fear overtaking his voice.

"I'm on it," says an older girl.

Boop beep beep. "Hello?"

"What is your emergency?"

Linda takes the phone from her daughter. "Hello? Yes, I'm the parent. Our daughter is missing."

Their conversation continues until it finally comes to a close, and police sirens can be heard in the distance.

Knock knock.

"Get the door, Bill," Linda exclaims after a minute.

"Hello, sir. Are you the father to Winter?" greets an officer.

"Yes, officer. Come on in," Bill confirms.

"I am Detective Alan," he proclaims.

"And I am Stan the man," expresses someone behind Alan.

"Come on in," bursts Linda.

"Okay, in we come," Stan says excitedly.

The two detectives start asking questions like:

"Would your daughter ever run away?"

"Was she a troubled girl?"

"Who are her friends?"

"When did you last see her?"

"How was her attitude when you last talked to her?"

"Do you think she is in danger?"

"May we see her room?"

Some of the answers Winter's family gave are as follows:

"No, no."

"Anna, and Joe. Tim, my husband's boss, and his wife Brenda."

"Last night when she went to bed was the last time we saw her."

"Her attitude was normal."

"If she was taken, then yes, we believe she is in danger."

"Yes, you may see her room."

The detectives are guided to Winter's room, and they see tiny shards of glass. Then looking closer, they find a tiny bottle. After finding the bottle, they dust for fingerprints.

“There is some evidence that she was taken, so we will try our best to issue an missing persons report, but we may not be able to,” one of them says

Chapter 8: The Talk

Mom walks in on James and Summer talking.

"James, I need to talk to Summer alone," Mom states.

"Um okay Mom," James says hesitantly getting up from the bed. Summer eyes him worriedly.

As he leaves he mouths ***"It will be okay."***

"Okay Summer you are here for a reason, you are special, in ways you don't even know about yet." Mom begins

"Okay and?" Summer stiffly sasses

"Well, have you ever done anything weird?" Mom questions

"Well yeah, I have drawn all over my face." Summer answers

"But like has anything weird ever happened to you" Mom coaxes

"Um I don't know" Summer vacillates

"Fine" Mom, fuming leaves

James appears out of nowhere

"Agh, how do you do that?!?" yelps Summer

"I am very sneaky" James, grinning, says

"Were you listening?" Summer questions

"Yeah" James admits "Do you mind"

"Not really" laughs Summer

"Did you know what she meant?" James asks

"No, I do not know what she meant" Summer confirms

"Okay," James sighs "How do I say this? What if I were to tell you that you have a talent that, like me, is very special?"

"I would tell you you were crazy" states Summer seriously "And what is your so-called special talent?"

"Okay," another sigh " Mine? Well, I was born still, and have been the quietest child in the world. You have been born with something called umbrakinesis."

"And what is that?" Summer questions

"It's the power of mind control."

"Ohh, I could live with that"

"You have been," James says confused

"I mean like knowing I have mind control"

"Oh" James finally getting it says "but it is not what you think"

" So I can't just say leave me alone and you leave me alone"

"No, but if you want me to leave you alone I can"

"Oh no that was just an example" Summer explains "But then how do I do it?"

"Well, you have to picture them doing what you want them to do. Then you must, in your mind, make them do it. Hopefully, that will get you started." James explains

"May I try to do something to you?" Summer questions

"No, but try to make me say yes"

"But you said no," Summer says confused

"Just try," James says

“Okay,” Summer says with a sigh, she starts picturing James saying yes but to what she thinks:

Hmm he says yes to hugging me I guess that will work

She starts picturing him saying yes and him starting to walk over to Summer to hug her.

Then she feels his arms wrap around her, feels the warmth of his breath and that he smells slightly of sweat but it is a pleasant smell, she can hear him sighing as he holds her.

When Summer opens her eyes she is being embraced by James, she starts laughing.

James stops being mind-controlled and laughs with her. Still hugging they fall onto the bed.

Chapter 9: Getting Ready

When they finally stop laughing Summer asks

"What can the others do?"

James replies "Well Adam has a very high IQ, Alice is omnilingualism in all languages, Mary can eat anything, and Alexander can duplicate almost anything, item-wise."

"Oh, what about um Jennifer?" Summer inquired

"Her? Well she can do nothing that I know of"

"Oh, then why does she want us? And how does she even know about us"

"She learned from our dad, and she wanted to create the ultimate superfamily."

"Who is our dad?"

"The guy, oh you will find out tonight"

"But before then you need to get gone James we got girl things to do," says Alice walking into the room with Mary

"Yeah get gone" Mary giggles out

As James leaves Summer mouths "**Help me**" James just chuckles

"Okay first things first your clothes" Alice smirks "They need to go, so go into the bathroom strip, then put on the robe and put your clothes into the hamper by the bathroom door."

"Okay" so Summer did as she was told and came out of the bathroom ready for the next task

"Now you go back in there and take a bath. The soaps are by the stairs and you will be able to figure out the rest."

A freshly washed Summer walks out of the bathroom and asks, "What now?"

"Now to the wardrobe" Mary coached "To pick out a dress"

"But I don't wear dresses" Summer lies

"Yes you do" Alice put in

"And these are cute" Mary blurts

As they get closer to the wardrobe Mary trips and Summer makes a run for the door.

Outside of which James is standing. "I figured," he says laughing "Follow me, we will go to my room"

They get to James's room and he gets her a tee shirt and sweatpants

"Thanks for letting me hang here," Summer says after changing in his bathroom.

"Summer where are you" Mary and Alice call out "Check James's room I will check my room and your room," Mary says loudly

"Quick under the bed" James whispers

The pair clamber under the bed. As they do so they are pushed up against each other.

Summer can feel James's heartbeat and it's comforting

"Ha gotcha" Alice exclaims peering under the bed "Come on we can't play these games dinner is in an hour"

"Ugh fine," Summer says getting out from under the bed

"And where did you get those clothes?" Mary asks

"James" Summer answers

They leave to go and pick out a dress

Chapter 10: The Fight

"Eek I'm so excited" squeals Mary

"Me too" agrees Alice

"I just want to see her" chirps James

"Ugh where is she" Alexander yawns

Summer is peeping out of the deck onto the lawn where the party is

"Where is my daughter" says a tall man joining the group of kids inside

"Let's get this party started sir" an islander pipes in

"It's going to start as soon as she comes downstairs," the man says turning towards the deck and staring directly at Summer *"Come down now"* Summer gives a start and looks around no one else seems to have heard it *"Come down before I have to come to get you"*

Summer starts making her way to the stairs picturing the tall man telling everyone that he is going to cancel the party. Summer is almost at the top of the stairs and the tall man starts trying to make an announcement

Alexander asks "What are you trying to do Dad?"

The tall man says "I'm trying to cancel the party"

"Oh no," Alexander races up the stairs and practically catches Summer fainting and falling down the stairs. He carries her to a nearby bedroom.

The man snapping out of the trance gathers the remaining kids "Summer tried making me cancel the party I'm going to find her" he barks at them

Alexander goes out of the bedroom knowing that the dad will be upstairs soon. As

Summer wakes up, she goes into the bathroom to get a drink of water. Then she tries to run out of the room.

"Oh no you don't," Alexander says, catching her around the waist.

"Lemme go" Summer fumed

"No" Now throwing her in the room Alexander locks the door from the outside.

The tall man runs up the stairs and sees Alexander blocking the door.

"Let me in," he tells Alexander

"What are you going to do to her," Alexander asks "She doesn't want to be here"

"Ugh you will let me in"

"No"

The other kids catch up to their dad

"Let me talk to her" heaves James

"Okay," says both Alexander and the tall man

So James walks into the room. A pillow flies past his head

"Woah girl it's me," he says

"Oh," Summer runs up to him "Did you bring the tall man with you?"

"No" James chuckles then gapes at her.

"What??" Summer questions

"You" is all he can say

"Oh," she blushes. She is wearing a sparkly blue and white sleeveless dress, the bust is blue down to the skirt is speckled with blue and the rest is white. Some of her hair is curled and in a messy bun, the rest is down and tightly curled.

"But," James says gaining his composure " the tall man is your dad, his name is Rob, and you need to come down to the party"

"But," Summer says adjusting her dress " two things, one I guessed and two why"

"Come on just do it" James insisted

"Fine but only for you"

"I'm fine with that"

They walk over to the door hand in hand and James knocks twice "She's ready"

"Okay come on out," Alexander says after unlocking the door the two walk out of the room and Alexander questions Summer "You good girl?"

"Yeah," she answers

Chapter 11: The Party

"Walk with me?" Summer asks James

They walk towards the stairs and Summer's grip tightens till James's hand goes purple and he says "Ow" Her grip loosens. She hesitates at the top of the stairs

James whispers "Take a breath and let it out" She does this

Then the lights dim and a spotlight appears on James and Summer. People gasp at the two as they walk down the stairs. Alexander appears downstairs and smiles.

"That was awful," Summer says when they reach the other kids. People keep congratulating their dad who finally comes over to them

"So, we will talk about your punishment later but how are you adjusting to life on the island?" he greets

"Um it's fine," Summer says cautiously not wanting to anger him "The punch is good"

"Yeah the punch" he shifts uncomfortably he thinks "This is very uncomfortable"

"Yeah very uncomfortable" Summer puts in

"Wait," they say at the same time

"You hear my thoughts?" he questions "Sixty-four"

"Sixty-four?" Summer questions "Why sixty-four?"

"You can read my mind" Dad states

"Yes but can you read mine?" Summer asks

"Nope" Dad replies

"That's a relief," Summer says

"Not for me" Dad mumbles

"What was that" Summer smiles sweetly

"You know what I said" Dad huffed

"I do and anything you say or think can and will be held against you" he makes a lunge for her, and Alexander and James intervene

"Let's get you upstairs," James says quietly they leave hand in hand

AFTERPARTY

"The party was fun," Summer says when the kids are cleaning up

"Yeah, real joy bringer," Alexander sarcastically remarks "You a hot mess Summer"

"Thank you" Summer exclaims

"She's crazy," Alexander thinks to himself Summer wonders what the other kids are thinking about

"How did you guys like the cake?" questions Mary

"It was good" they all agree, and then they go to bed after finishing up

Chapter 12: Night Night

"Lights out is at 10:00," Alexander tells Summer it is currently 8:36

"I gonna go lay down," Summer says

"Alright," James responds "I'll be in my room if you need anything," he adds.

As she falls into bed, she can't help but review the day's events. Despite the initial awkwardness and tension, it turned out to be a surprisingly enjoyable evening.

As tired as She is, after an hour, she still can't fall asleep so, she gets up puts on a robe, and walks to James's room

"Can I sleep in here?" she asks

Of course," James responds, making room for her on the bed. Summer snuggles up next to him, finding comfort in his presence.

"I love you" he whispers as he gently strokes her hair. Summer sees how lucky she is to have found someone like him. With a contented sigh, she finally drifts off into a peaceful slumber. When she wakes up James is already up and moving.

"I figured I better let you sleep in" he shyly says

Thank you," Summer replies with a smile. She stretches and sits up, rubbing the sleep from her eyes. "You didn't have to do that, but I appreciate it."

James nods, his eyes filled with warmth. "Well, you deserve it," he says softly. "After everything you've been through, a bit of extra rest won't hurt." they start getting ready to start the day.

James helps Summer out of bed and they make their way to the kitchen, hand in hand.

As they eat breakfast together, a sense of calm and contentment settles over them. They talk about their plans for the day, making sure to include some time for relaxation and self-care. It's in these simple moments that they realize just how fortunate they are to have found love amidst life's challenges.

Chapter 13: The Surprise

The two go walk outside and go to their private beach. The sun is shining brightly, its gentle rays warming their skin. They stroll along the shore, hand in hand, their footsteps leaving imprints in the soft sand. The rhythmic sound of the waves crashing against the shore creates a soothing symphony, a backdrop to their laughter and conversation. They find a spot under a shady palm tree and settle down, content to bask in each other's company. Time seems to stand still as they lose themselves in intimate conversations, sharing dreams and aspirations, fears and vulnerabilities. The hours fly by in a blur of shared moments and stolen kisses.

"You guys need to come home" Alexander and Alice come running up, their faces flushed with excitement. Summer and James look at each other, their brows furrowing in confusion.

"What's going on?" James asks, concern in his voice. Alexander and Alice exchange mischievous looks before bursting into laughter.

"We were just kidding you!" Alexander exclaims, still chuckling.

"We wanted us to invite you for a surprise," Alice adds, a twinkle in her eye.

Summer breathes a sigh of relief, her heart lightened by the playful prank. They gather their things and make their way back home, hand in hand. They walk side by side, their hearts filled with a deep sense of belonging. They know that this adventure is only the beginning of many more cherished moments together as they navigate through life's ups and downs, always supported and loved by those who matter most. As they approach the front porch Summer stops James with a kiss and tells him

"I loved today"

He answers "Me too" Returning the kiss they walk into the living room and James tells her

"So we thought you might like this"

Oh my goodness... a puppy?" she exclaims, her eyes welling up with tears of joy. James nods, his face beaming with excitement.

"We thought it would be the perfect addition to our little family," Dad says, in his gruff voice. Summer's heart melts as she holds the adorable bundle of fur in her arms. She looks at Alice and Alexander, gratitude filling her gaze.

"Thank you," she whispers, overwhelmed by the love and thoughtfulness that surround her.

A few weeks go by and their connection grows

Chapter 14: The Search Continues,

4 Days Prior

"There is some evidence that she was taken so we will try our best to issue a missing person report but we may not be able to," One of the officers says to Linda and Bill

3 Days Prior

Alan announces with a glimmer of hope in his eyes, "We have successfully issued an Amber alert. We are actively pursuing leads and have engaged local volunteers to aid in the search for Winter. We are committed to finding her."

"We will not rest until we locate her," Stan adds, his determination evident.

Alan then suggests moving the family to a safe house. They all pile into the Knights' family van, with Alan riding along and Stan driving the cop car.

"This case bears similarities to five other cases," Alan shares during the drive to the safehouse. "We suspect a serial kidnapper may be involved."

Linda's heart sinks at the revelation, holding onto Bill's hand tightly. Despite her fear and worry, she remains strong for her family.

As they settle into the safehouse, surrounded by unfamiliar surroundings, Linda prays for Winter's safety and a swift resolution to the ordeal. Their relentless search for their daughter continues, fueled by hope and an unwavering determination to bring her back home. The days pass by in a haze of anxiety and sleepless nights. Linda and Bill devote themselves to the search, cooperating with law enforcement, raising awareness on social media, and pursuing any leads that come their way. The outpouring of support from the community is immense, with volunteers joining the search efforts and offering words of encouragement. Despite the exhaustion and heartbreak, Linda's resolve remains unshaken. She holds onto memories of Summer's laughter and infectious joy, using her love for her daughter as a driving force to reunite their family. Each passing day without news feels like an eternity, but Linda refuses to lose hope, knowing that Winter is out there, waiting for them.

Chapter 15: Summer's 19th Birthday

"Happy birthday, Summer!" James exclaims as he jumps out of bed.

"Thank you, James!" Summer replies with a laugh. With a big smile on her face, she gets up and gives James a warm hug. She holds onto James for a moment longer, lingering in the warmth of the hug. James then reveals that he has a surprise for her. He leads her to the bedroom where a stunning emerald green gown hangs on the back of the door.

"I couldn't have asked for a better celebration," she says

"You're welcome, beautiful," James says with a grin. "I'm glad I could make your day so special. But the night's not over yet! I've got one more surprise for you. Get ready for the grand finale!"

As Summer slips into the dress, she feels as though she's stepping into a fairytale. The fabric drapes around her like a soft embrace, and the color brings out the sparkle in her eyes.

"You look enchanting," James murmurs, his gaze filled with adoration. "Now, let's make this grand finale a night to remember."

She knows that whatever surprise James has planned, it will be nothing short of magical. As they step out into the evening, Summer's heart races with the thrill of the unknown, knowing that James has once again gone above and beyond to make her day unforgettable.

"Here we are," James says, "the most perfect place on the island." It is a small clearing surrounded by palm trees, offering a stunning view of the ocean. In the center of the clearing, there is a blanket spread out on the sand for a picnic dinner.

"Wow, you nailed this one, man!" Summer exclaims.

"Alexander helped some" James admits

"I'm sure he did," she says with a knowing smile. As they make their way towards the dinner setup, the night sky comes alive with a spectacular display of colorful fireworks exploding overhead.

Chapter 16: The Text

While Linda was browsing an online store one day, she receives a notification on her phone. It was a message from an unfamiliar number, causing her heart to skip a beat. She anxiously opens it, hoping for any clue about her daughter, Summer's whereabouts. The message read, "Hello, Linda. I have information about your daughter. Meet me at the park tomorrow at 2 p.m."

A mixture of anticipation and fear washes over Linda. Could this be a genuine lead or just another cruel hoax? She decides to share the message with Bill, who agrees that they should take the chance.

The next day, they arrive at the park early, scanning their surroundings with anxiety. Suddenly, a figure cautiously approaches them from behind a tree. It was a middle-aged man with tired eyes and trembling hands.

"I apologize for reaching out to you in this manner," he said, his voice filled with remorse. "But I couldn't risk being caught."

Linda's heart raced as she listened attentively to his story. He claims to have been an employee at the airport where Summer was last seen and that he witnessed something suspicious that day.

"I saw a van parked near the entrance," he whispers. "I remember the license plate number - JPT 457."

Linda's eyes widen in disbelief. This could be the breakthrough they had been desperately waiting for. She expresses her gratitude to the man and assures him that his identity will remain confidential.

As they walk back to their car, a glimmer of hope returns to Linda's heart. They finally had something tangible to work with - a lead that could potentially bring Summer home. With renewed determination, Linda and Bill waste no time in reporting this new information to the police. The officer assigned to Winter's case promises to immediately follow up on the lead and urging Linda to remain patient.

Days turned to weeks, as the investigation unfolded, Linda and Bill clung to the hope that they were closer than ever to finding their daughter.

As time continued to drag on, uncertainty started to resurface. Could the man in the park be trusted? Or was it simply a misleading clue in their urgent quest?

Just when Linda's optimism began to falter, the police received a call. They had successfully tracked down the license plate number given by the unidentified tipster.

Chapter 17: Wishes

When the couple wakes up

Summer yawns and says "What time is it"

James looks at his watch and replies, "It's almost 8 o'clock." Summer groans and stretches her arms, ready to get out of the makeshift bed. She stands up and rubs her eyes, stretching her back. She looks at James and gives him a small smile before heading towards the house. James gets up as well and follows her. They both brush their teeth, get dressed, and head to the kitchen for breakfast.

As they sit down at the kitchen table James asks Summer, "What would you like for breakfast?"

Summer thinks for a moment and replies, "How about some pancakes? I've wanted them all week."

James nods and starts to gather the ingredients, saying, "Pancakes it is! I'll make them just the way you like them." Summer loves her pancakes with coconut, so she adds, "And don't forget the shredded coconut on top! It adds an extra touch of sweetness."

James chuckles and says,

"Of course, I wouldn't dare forget that. Your wish is my command." They both laugh and continue to chat as James continues preparing the pancake batter. James flips the pancakes on the stove, and they start to sizzle. He pours the batter into the pan and waits a few moments before checking on them. He flips them again, and they're ready to serve. He places them on the plate and hands them over to her with a smile. They start eating, and James watches as Summer enjoys the pancakes.

As they are finishing up, Alexander, Alice, Adam, and Mary come into the kitchen and ask, "Can we have some pancakes too?"

James smiles before nodding at the siblings. James quickly makes more pancakes for them, Summer and James watch each other with fond smiles, enjoying the chaos of a family breakfast.

After breakfast, the family cleans up together, laughing and joking as they work. Summer looks at James and softly says,

"I feel so lucky to have you guys. I couldn't ask for anything more." James smiles back at her, taking her hands in his and saying, "You are my greatest wish, my love. I have everything I need right here with you."

They share a tender moment, feeling grateful for the love and happiness they have found together. Summer closes her eyes and makes a silent wish, hoping for more moments like this in the future.

James squeezes her hand and whispers, "I love you, forever and always."

And in that moment, their hearts were full, knowing that their love was the greatest wish come true.

Chapter 18: A Break in the Case

In Linda and Bill's case, the police inform them that a van with the license plate had been reported stolen several weeks prior to Summer's abduction. While the van was found abandoned in a secluded area outside of town, they found a small piece of fabric torn from Summer's dress that provided evidence of her presence, and that the van was abandoned.

Despite the anxieties she is experiencing, Linda holds onto that fragment of her daughter's life with as much affection as she can. This fragment of her daughter's life serves as undeniable proof that Summer is still alive, and it gives her and her husband hope that they are making progress in their search for her.

As a result of this remarkable development, the investigation gains momentum and the police allocate more resources to the investigation, hiring additional officers and forensic experts to meticulously examine all of the evidence.

Days turn into weeks, yet there is still no sign of Summer. The waiting becomes almost unbearable, with each passing moment testing their patience.

However, Linda remains determined and refuses to give up. She understands that each day brings them closer to finding their beloved daughter. She finds solace in her prayers, seeking strength and guidance in this difficult journey.

Chapter 19: New phone

A new phone appears in James' hands, which he presents to Summer with tenderness, urging her to open it. She is curious and opens the small box to find a beautiful blue phone. She looks confused and asks James about its purpose. James explains that he got her a new phone as a gift to help her reconnect with her parents. Summer is overwhelmed by James' thoughtfulness and tears up. Despite the difficulties they face, James is determined to bring comfort into her life. Summer is grateful and offers him a small, appreciative smile. As she holds the phone, she feels a glimmer of hope, knowing that it can help her connect with her parents and share important information that could aid in her rescue. Meanwhile, Linda and Bill's hearts race with anticipation as Linda's phone rings with an unknown number.

"Mom? Dad? It's me, Winter..."

As they hear their daughter's voice, their breath catches. It's a sound they've been longing for, and tears of relief stream down their cheeks. At that moment, they make a vow to do anything necessary to bring her home. They know this phone call is a sign that they're one step closer to being reunited as a family. Their breath catches as they hear their daughter's voice, a voice that has been absent for far too long. Tears cascade down their cheeks, mingling with the overwhelming relief that floods their souls. At that moment, they vow to do whatever it takes to bring her home, knowing that this phone call has brought them one step closer to reuniting as a family.

"Oh my", Linda says quietly and falls into Bill. After being saved the man comes to the Knight's house.

"You," Winter says when she sees him

"Yes me" he replies

"Winter baby you know him"

"He's the one who kidnapped me"

The man does not deny this and is also arrested and put in jail with Jenifer and Rob

Chapter 20: Moving On

One Year Later

After their harrowing rescue, Summer and James found solace in each other's arms. They had forged a deep bond through shared experiences. They had both faced the abyss and emerged stronger, clinging to hope and love.

The quaint little house they now called home was filled with warmth and laughter. Princess, their loyal mini poodle, had become an integral part of their healing process. Her tiny paws clicked on the wooden floor as she trotted around, her yapping a constant reminder of joy.

James was always in a hurry, racing against time. "Oh my goodness, I'm gonna be late for college!" he exclaims, grabbing his backpack and dashing for the door. Summer chuckles, watching him with affectionate eyes. His messy hair and determined expression made her heart swell.

"Hm," Summer murmurs, stretching in bed. Princess hopped up, her tail wagging furiously. She nuzzled Summer's hand, demanding attention. "I love you too, little one," Summer whispers, scratching behind Princess's ears. She closes her eyes and James returns, breathless, and planted a kiss on Summer's cheek. "Bye, Princess," he said, patting the poodle's head. "Bye, lovey," Summer replies, pulling him into a hug. His warmth enveloped her, and she held on tightly.

"Okay, now I really need to go," James said, reluctantly pulling away. He glanced back at Summer, his eyes full of promises. "I'll be back soon. And don't do that again" And with that, he was gone, leaving Summer with a heart full of hope. She knew they had overcome the worst, and this new chapter in their lives was a gift—one they would cherish forever.

About the Author

Dear Readers,

My name is Emily. Every once in a while, I go into a daydream. Most of the time, when I daydream, I do it at night. But there was one night in particular that I dreamed up a story. This story is about a girl who gets kidnapped and is taken to a tropical island. She meets a boy and they fall in love they then escape. I wanted to pass my daydreaming on to other people, let them experience the adventure, and have fun all the while. I hope you enjoy my story.